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APPLICATION NO.	FILED DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/774,809	01/31/2001	Robert McKay	ISPH-0526	2494

7590 02/06/2003

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EXAMINER

GIBBS, TERRA C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1635	1

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2003 1

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/774,809	MCKAY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Terra C. Gibbs	1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 14,21,22 and 28-40 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 14,21,22 and 28-40 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                    4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_

2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_                    6)  Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Response to Amendment***

Applicant's Amendment A, filed on 1/6/03 is acknowledged. This amendment has canceled claims 1-13, 15-20 and 23-27. New claims 34-40 are acknowledged. New claims 35-40 include SEQ ID NOS. 29-41. Upon consideration of Applicant's Amendment A, it was determined that a search of SEQ ID NOS. 29-41 would constitute an undue burden on the Patent and Trademark Office due to complex nature of the search and corresponding examination of more than one (1) of the claimed antisense sequences listed in claims 35-40. The following sequence restriction requirement is necessitated by applicant's amendment to the claims.

***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 C.F.R. 1.141, the sequences of claims 35-40 are restricted to **one** sequence. The Commissioner has partially waived the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.141 and will permit a reasonable number of such nucleotide sequences to be claimed in a single application. Under this policy, up to 10 of independent and distinct nucleotide sequences will be examined in a single application (see MPEP 803.04 and 2434).

The inventions specifically claim antisense targeted to regions (active site) corresponding to SEQ ID NOS: 29-41, which modulate the expression of JNK. Although the antisense sequences claimed each target and modulate expression of the same gene, the instant antisense sequences are considered to be unrelated, since each antisense sequence claimed is structurally and functionally independent and distinct for the following reasons: each antisense sequence has a unique nucleotide sequence, each antisense sequence targets a different and specific region of

JNK, and each antisense, upon binding to the JNK gene, functionally modulates (increases or decreases) the expression of the gene and to varying degree (per applicant's Table 9 in the specification). Furthermore, a search of more than one (1) of the antisense sequences presents an undue burden on the Patent and Trademark Office due to the complex nature of the search and corresponding examination of more than one (1) of the claimed antisense sequences. In view of the foregoing, one (1) antisense sequence is considered to be a reasonable number of sequences for examination. Accordingly, applicants are required to elect one (1) antisense sequence to be examined with the elected invention, which invention is restricted thereof.

Because a separate search would be required for each one of the target sequences of claims 35-40, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

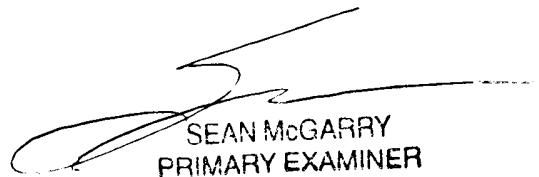
Applicant is advised that the reply to this sequence requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(l).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terra C. Gibbs whose telephone number is (703) 306-3221.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John L. LeGuyader can be reached on (703) 308-0447. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4242. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

tcg  
February 1, 2003



SEAN McGARRY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER